VeggieTales®

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The Grapes of Wrath

"Our brood is **rude**! So stay out of our path. We are the Grapes of Wrath!" Ma and Pa said it themselves. Seldom do you see a smile, and never a laugh… typical of Sour Grapes.

One day while riding in their old jalopy, they hit a bump. Jumping out, the kids (Tom and Rosie) commence doing what they do best: name-calling and bickering, which gets louder by the word.

They take a breath in thwarting each other and it is then that they notice Junior Asparagus. Immediately, they transfer the name-calling to him with Ma and Pa chiming in…

What started as "bean boy" grew to "cheese-headed bean boy" (because Junior wore a yellow hat). Pa added to the jeering by asking if Junior glues peas to his "noggin"! Angered by the name-calling and rude bantering, Junior tells them he is an asparagus. "Aspar-a-whoosit" cajoles Pa, as he laughs louder with each put-down.

Junior's father comes out and confronts the grapes as he hears the verbal taunting. When they promise to never be mean again, Junior forgives them at his father's suggestion. But they break this promise when they hear his name is Junior. Their uncontrolled laughter is humiliating to Junior. In his attempt to escape, he steps on a hoe, hits his head, and falls into his dump truck which rolls backwards down a hill to a huge sandbox.

Junior is totally covered with sand and is very embarrassed as he hears the "sour" grapes repeat their laughter without a thought for Junior's safety or feelings.

Again, Junior's dad insists on forgiving those who wrong him—a very hard thing to do. Forgive, and keep on forgiving—the Grapes of Wrath couldn't believe anyone could forgive so much.

Then, the weirdest thing happens. Rosie Grape smiles and acts nice, it catches on with the other "clump" of grapes (Ma, Pa, and Tom), and that is the end of "The Grapes of Wrath" and the beginning of the family now known by their new name, "The Grapes of Math."

THEME:

If someone wrongs you and says he or she is sorry, you should forgive and forget the wrong. Then you (and the other person) will feel better.

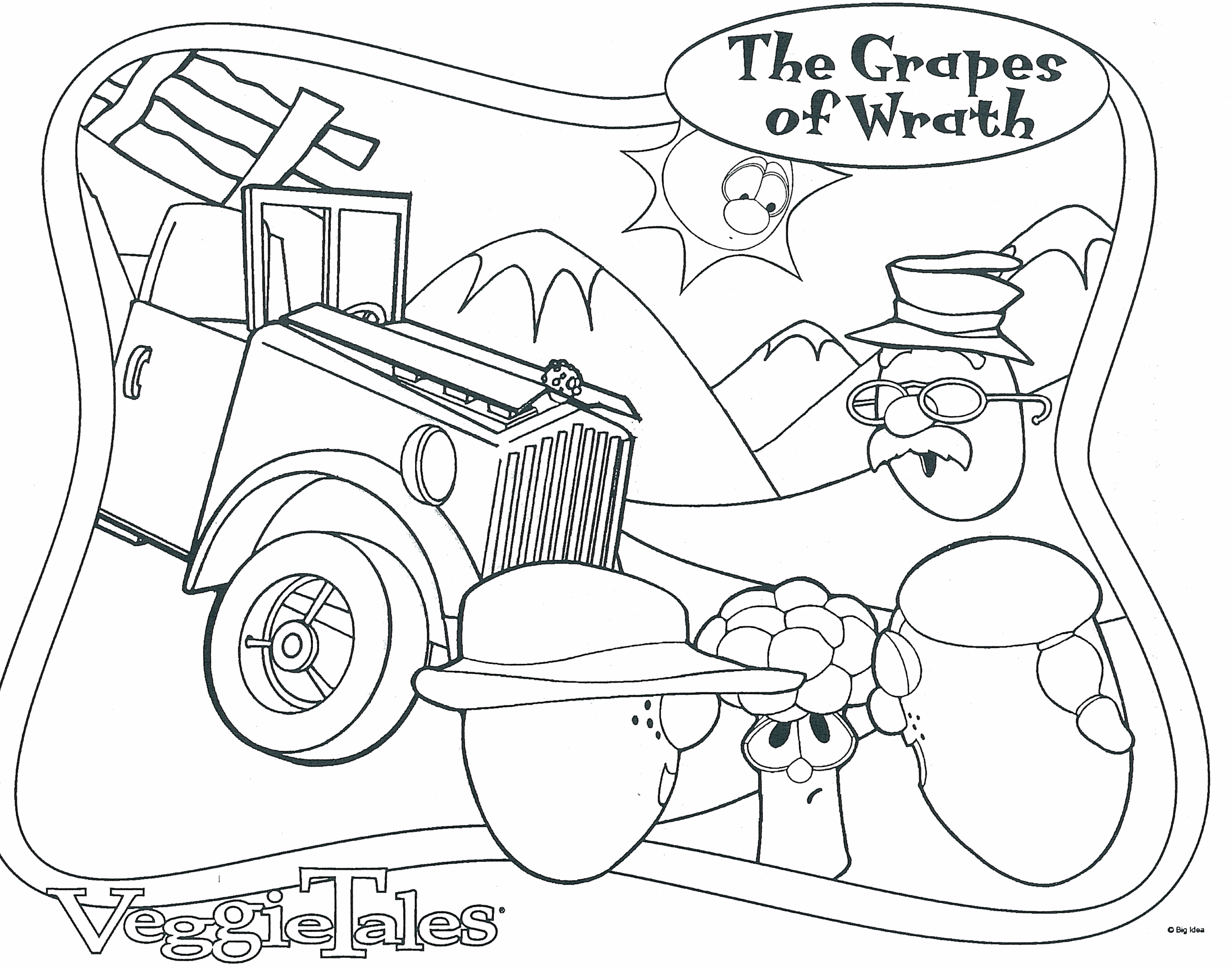
QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

1. Why was this family called "The Grapes of Wrath?" *[Because they were so 'sour' and rude to everyone.]*
2. What did the whole 'grape cluster' enjoy doing? *[Yelling, bantering, giving put-downs, name calling.]*
3. What did Junior's father tell him to do when someone hurts his feelings and says 'sorry'? *[Just forgive.]*
4. How do you feel when someone calls you names? *[Hurt, embarrassed, angry.]*
5. Should you only forgive once? *[No! Forgive as many times as they ask, or as needed, to prove you have forgiven.]*
6. How do you feel when someone promises never to do something again, and then they do it again?
7. What did you learn from "The Grapes of Wrath?" *[That even sour grapes can be forgiven.]*
8. Have you ever promised something and broken your promise? How did you feel about it?

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

1. Share a time when you forgave someone. How did you feel when you forgave them?
2. Role play a scene from "The Grapes of Wrath."
3. Discuss the personalities of Ma, Pa, Rosie, and Tom.
4. Would you like to have them for your parents or brother and sister? Why or why not?
5. Do you think "The Grapes of Wrath" liked their new name? *[Yes. "The Grapes of Math" sounds a lot better than "The Grapes of Wrath."]*
6. Do you think they will keep their promise now that their name has been changed? *[Discuss.]*
7. Provide the children with "sweet" grapes and "sour" grapes. Ask the children to taste each kind, compare them, tell which they would rather be and why.
8. Give grape-flavored gum with a reminder wrapped around each piece saying "When someone says 'sorry' say okay, I forgive you." Get in the habit of saying this so it will be easy for you!

This VeggieTales classroom edition was made possible through the generous gifts of: Caudle Rymer Foundation, The Maclellan Family, Sam and Donna Smartt, and C.A. (Red) Parks.



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